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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Report of the Second Committee (Part XIII)*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95 as a whole (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on the item was taken at the 39th and 43rd meetings, on 27 November and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.39 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.40 and A/C.2/50/L.76

2. At the 39th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa" (A/C.2/50/L.40), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolution 49/107 of 19 December 1994 on the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the resolution,

"Stressing the renewed urgency for promoting industrialization as a key element in the development of developing countries and the essential role of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in that regard, as reaffirmed in the Declaration of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted on 20 October 1995, and the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 on 29 September 1995, 1/ as well as in resolution AHG/Res. 5 (XXXI) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on 28 June 1995,

"Recognizing the need for enhanced cooperation between African countries, the United Nations system and, in particular, other bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, as well as African regional and subregional organizations, in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

"Recognizing also the important role of industrialization in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 2/

"Recognizing further the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

"Taking note of the far-reaching implications of the fundamental developments in the international setting and environment for development cooperation, including the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the declining availability of resources for development, for the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade and the need for concerted national and international action to enable African countries to cope with the challenges posed by recent trends in trade, resource flows and technology, among other things,

"Emphasizing the continuing need for the mobilization of adequate resources through domestic and international initiatives for the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

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1/ A/50/518, annex.

2/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

"Noting with appreciation the various regional and subregional initiatives and meetings that have taken place, including the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held at Gaborone, Botswana from 6 to 8 June 1995, and the positive contribution made by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in convening and organizing industrial investment forums aimed at the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002); 1/

"2. Calls upon African countries to enhance cooperation among themselves in the areas of industrial policy, institutional development, human resources development, technology and investment, and calls upon the international community to implement those efforts;

"3. Requests the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the Organization of African Unity and all other partners in the development process, to continue to play an active role in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, bearing in mind the undertakings made in this regard in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

"4. Encourages African Governments to strengthen national committees for the Second Decade in order to monitor its implementation effectively and to fashion appropriate policy responses to the challenges and the demands posed by changes in the domestic and international environment for industrialization;

"5. Emphasizes the continuing need for technical and financial assistance from the United Nations system and from bilateral and multilateral sources to complement the efforts of African countries in achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

"6. Requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to facilitate the exchange of information among African Governments on activities carried out nationally in collaboration with the United Nations system and with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners in connection with the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade as a contribution to subsequent reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme;

"7. Calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to enhance their assistance for improving the competitiveness of the industrial sector in Africa in the light of the globalization of

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1/ A/50/487.

production and the growth of related trade, investment and technology flows;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all the relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to submit a report on the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade as a contribution to the mid-term review, in 1996, of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

"9. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa" (A/C.2/50/L.76), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.40.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.76, without a vote (see para. 8).

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.2/50/SR.43).

6. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.76, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.40 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision

7. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, submitted under agenda item 95 (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 49/107 of 19 December 1994 on the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the resolution,

Reaffirming also paragraph 2 of its resolution 49/102 of 19 December 1994,

Stressing the renewed urgency for promoting industrialization as a key element in the development of developing countries and the important role of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, which is undergoing a process of reform, and recalling the declarations of the Group of 77, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of African Unity, on 29 September 1995, 4/ 20 October 1995 and 28 June 1995, respectively, on the essential role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this regard,

Recognizing the need for enhanced cooperation between African countries, the United Nations system and other bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, as well as African regional and subregional organizations, in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

Recognizing also the important role of industrialization in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 5/

Recognizing further the importance of intercontinental, interregional, regional and subregional cooperation in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

Noting the far-reaching implications of the fundamental developments in the international environment for development cooperation, including the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and for the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, as well as the need for concerted national and international action to enable African countries to cope with the challenges posed by, and benefit fully from, the opportunities provided by recent developments in international trade, among other things, and the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in this regard,

Emphasizing the continuing need for the mobilization of adequate resources through domestic and international initiatives for the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, including a favourable climate for foreign direct investment, private sector development, small and medium-sized enterprises and enhanced market access,

Recognizing the need for African countries to use both human and financial resources more effectively in the process of industrialization,

Noting with appreciation the various regional and subregional initiatives and meetings that have taken place, including the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held at Gaborone, Botswana, from 6 to 8 June 1995, and the contribution made by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in convening and organizing industrial investment forums aimed at the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade,

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4/ A/50/518, annex.

5/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002); 6/

2. Emphasizes the importance of industrial development cooperation and a positive investment and business climate, at the international, regional, subregional and national levels, in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernization of productive capacities in developing countries;

3. Requests the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the Organization of African Unity and all other partners in the development process, to continue to play an active and more effective role in the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, bearing in mind the undertakings made in this regard in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

4. Encourages African Governments to strengthen national committees for the Second Decade in order to monitor its implementation effectively and to fashion effective policy responses to the challenges and the demands posed and the opportunities offered by changes in the domestic and international environment for industrialization;

5. Emphasizes the continuing need for technical and financial assistance from the United Nations system and from bilateral and multilateral sources to complement the efforts of African countries in achieving the objectives of the Second Decade, as well as the need for African countries to enhance cooperation among themselves in the areas of industrial policy, institutional development, human resources development, technology and investments;

6. Requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to facilitate the exchange of information among African Governments on activities carried out nationally in collaboration with the United Nations system and with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners in connection with the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade as a contribution to subsequent reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme;

7. Calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to enhance their assistance and coordinate their activities in human resources development for industry, with a view to improving the competitiveness of the industrial sector in Africa in the light of the globalization of production and the growth of related trade, investment and technology flows;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with all the relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to take into account the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade when preparing

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6/ A/50/487.

for the mid-term review, in 1996, of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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9. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. 7/

7/ A/50/487.